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4 August 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director, Center for the Study
of Intelligence

FROM :

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SUBJECT : CIA History Staff

1. With reference to the CIA History Staff, my information on the work in progress is limited to the following:

a. is doing the history of the Agency.

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I believe the completion date is 18-24 months down the line.

b. was doing the history of CIA's

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relations with Congress, but I believe this has been deferred, if not cancelled, because of DCI/DDCI area objections.

c. was to do the history of over-

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head reconnaissance, but word was that he was in over his head.

d. McDonald may be working on the history of a DCI. As I recall, he had oral sessions with Schlesinger and Helms.

e. I have no information on tasks assigned to the RA or secretary nor on the contracts with Warner, Smith, or Lehman.

2. The holdings of the History Staff are contained in some 30 safes--4 and 5 draw locked safes and open 5 x 8 card safes. In addition to the files at Ames, there are extensive holdings in the Records Center. The documents on areas, subjects, personnel, crypts, etc. which are identified on the cards are held

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3. Forwarded is a list of the histories which are regarded as "completed." There are 365 (not 450) items in this series, including general histories of the early years of the Agency, histories of DCI's Smith and Dulles, and volumes on components and activities of all Directorates. The only Directorate history which has been completed was on the DDS&T. In addition to the foregoing, there are an additional 46 items identified by "Misc" of "CSHP" numbers--some of these are nearly complete stories and others are basically collections of documents.

4. Most of the items listed are available from History Staff files, but the attached memo of 18 March 1980, Inventory of Histories, lists those volumes which are held by components of origin. History Staff does not have carte blanche to release completed histories, but must obtain permission from the originating component. As you can imagine, the DDO is reluctant to release! Because there were few professional historians to supervise the "catching up" program ordered by Col. White, the quality of the volumes touches both the high and low ends of the scale of excellence.

5. In reviewing our discussion, I think that someone may have entered an FOIA request for Arthur Darling's 12 volume work on The Central Intelligence Agency: an Instrument of Government. As I recall, this volume was surfaced during the SSCI hearings.

6. History Staff has one private office, five semi-private offices, an interior vault, and a sizeable open bay / area in Ames.

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